

From: Leo Muraro
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe that the DOJ proposed settlement with Microsoft is shameful.

I'm a computer consultant and I'm constantly struggling to provide clients the best solutions for their data processing needs. Because some of them have used Microsoft applications & operating systems, getting my customers data out of Microsoft's encrypted and proprietary formats is often so difficult (and expensive) that they are trapped with Microsoft. Microsoft could not get away with this in a healthy software market. The Software market is not healthy because Microsoft has engaged in predatory and illegal business practices for so long, that is now too dangerous to try to compete with Microsoft. It's not about the quality of your software, but how big your legal department is.

The proposed DOJ settlement is flawed for the following reasons.

It would not prevent Microsoft from engaging in the same illegal behavior that it was found guilty of.

I think the proposals of the nine States that are disagreeing with the DOJ settlement have a more suitable remedy.

Microsoft must sell operating systems without any applications.

Microsoft must be prevented from prohibiting (via punitive pricing contracts) computer manufacturers and computer users from offering or using alternative and co-existing operating systems and applications available to their customers.

Microsoft must be forced to license the Office suite of applications to competing operating systems in order to compensate for past illegal conduct.

Microsoft must be forced to publish the encoding format of its applications. Microsoft encrypts data in documents so that competing applications cannot read

them.

Microsoft must be fined for overcharging consumers and business's. The cost of all software has dropped except MS operating systems.

Microsoft must not be allowed any role in determining the criteria of compliance with any settlement, this is shamefull and must not be allowed. A panel of computer scientists should settle technical questions and issues.

I also think that Assistant Attorney General Charles A. James should resign in shame from the DOJ and just get a job with Microsoft, it would be much more honest. It's quite clear that he is not interested in looking out for the public interest.

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